

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-27, and 31-33 are pending in the present application, Claims 1, 4, 11, 13, and 20 having been amended, and Claims 28-30 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendments to Claims 1, 11, and 20 is found, for example, in Claims 28-30. Support for the amendments to Claims 4 and 13 is believed to be self-evident from the Applicants' figures. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added. Applicants also submit that the present amendment does not raise any new issues that require further search and/or consideration.

In the Official Action, Claims 4 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; Claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-27 and 31-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ho (U.S. Patent No. 5,909,207) in view of Applicants' admitted prior art (APA); Claims 6 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Ho, Applicants' admitted prior art, and Sarra (U.S. Patent No. 5,053,762); and Claims 28-30 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, independent Claims 1, 11, and 20 are amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claims 28-30.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 4 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claims 4 and 13 are amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Particularly, "an imaginary line" is changed to "a mid-point."

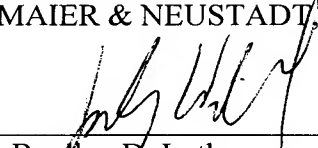
With respect to the rejection of Claims 11-20, 29, 30, 32, and 33, the antecedent basis informality identified in the outstanding Office Action is corrected.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

Accordingly, in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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